## Meeting Notes

**Improving Student Learning at Scale Team Meeting**

July 23rd, 9am-12pm

OSPI, Olympia

**Attendees (listed alphabetically):**

Vi Boyer (ICW), David Brenna (Professional Educator Standard’s Board), Jana Carlisle (Partnership for Learning), Kevin Chase (Grandview School District), Paul Francis (COP), Mike Hubert (OSPI), Craig Kanaya (Strategies 360), Noreen Light (WSAC), Marcie Maxwell (Governor’s Office), Gil Mendoza (OSPI), Anne Messerly (WSAC), Justin Montermini (WTECB), Bill Moore (SBCTC), Rai Nauman Mumtaz (WSAC), Ben Rarick (SBE), Rep. Chris Reykdal (Legislature), Gene Sharratt (WSAC), Randy Spaulding (WSAC), Karen Waters (Strategies 360)

*Legend-*

OSPI- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

SBE- State Board for Education

WSAC- Washington Student Achievement Council

WTECB- Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

COP- Council of Presidents

ICW- Independent Colleges of Washington

**Overview**

* Welcome and Introductions
* Issues around Common Core Implmentation and Teacher Preparation
* Communications Update
* Communications for Smarter Balanced Assessment
* Professional Development Activities
* Wrap-up

**Welcome and Introductions**

Main meeting goal: Discuss rising issues around Common Core implementation, and give guidance on the Smarter Balanced communications plan which is targeted at postsecondary faculty.

Upcoming cross-state meeting will be September 22-23 in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting is an opportunity for team members to meet state leaders and discuss progress and issues with Common Core implementation in other states. Topics will include teacher preparation, transition courses, and working with state legislators.

The NGA will pay for seven team members to attend. If you haven’t let us know already, please let Anne or Noreen know ASAP if you will not be attending. Then we can open up the meeting to additional team members.

**Issues around Common Core Implementation and Teacher Preparation**

TPEP (Washington State Teacher/Principal Evaluation Project), in collaboration with the American Institute for Research, released a statewide report of a survey to educators about their evaluation systems and Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The most notable results relating to CCSS are:

* Most educators were familiar with CCSS, although perceived implementation levels varied among districts.
* Educators agreed they did minimal outreach to parents and community members around CCSS.
* The majority (60%) of educators said that their teaching incorporates CCSS and aligns with teacher evaluations.

To read the full report, [click here](http://tpep-wa.org/2014/06/13/2014-state-of-the-state-educator-survey-report-released/).

*Team member discussion:*

* There will be a four year phase in to create more teacher preparation for Common Core. Teachers haven’t seen change yet, but they will.
* In order to fully accept CCSS, we must let go of previous Washington State Standards. Emerging issues we need to address are:
  + Professional development for teachers of the new standards
  + Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
  + Need for infrastructure to support Smarter Balanced assessments at the local level
* Recently, there was a survey by a group called ‘Stop Common Core’ that asked all candidates for WA state legislature their position on Common Core. Most who filled it out stated that they were against CCSS. We’re not sure why this is, perhaps they were trying to stand out by going against the status quo. To view the survey results, [click here](http://stopcommoncorewa.wordpress.com/candidate-survey/).
* OSPI and Partnership for Learning recently sent a combined survey to legislators about Common Core awareness; no responses, yet.
* Overall, there are some issues with implementing the Common Core but they are few. We are actually ahead of most states on our progress in implementation of the standards.
* So, what are the issues with CCSS? Is it the substance, the testing, or a reaction to change? There are three main issues:
  + **Assessment**- A recent Partnership for Learning survey showed that 70% (900 voters) supported Common Core; the consensus from the group discussion was a large part of the reluctance in support is related to the assessments
  + **Professional Development and Funding**- Washington State could have a better commitment to ongoing Professional Development
    - Need to prioritize this more according to HB 2776
    - Fidelity to implementation and having funding mechanism for Common Core professional development is crucial for success
  + **Curriculum/Content**- There is a misconception that Common Core is a standard set of curriculum which requires teachers to teach the curriculum a certain way
* There are two critical audiences that we must address:
  + Educator community (because there are a still a lot of unknowns about the impact of Common Core and the Smarter Balanced assessments; and also how teachers will be evaluated)
  + Public (they are influenced by the current state of things and they also influence their legislators)
    - There’s anxiety among the public about the assessment, and that it’s the only way to success and high school graduation. If we could produce messaging that says there’s a non-test pathway, that would ease concerns.
    - Also messaging should state that the test will be adjusted over time.
    - We must also address misconceptions about Common Core- it doesn’t fit everyone into a box, it just raises the floor.
* There are also many positive efforts around CCSS
  + First, there is lots of curriculum and material out there for teachers. The Smarter Balanced Digital Library provides materials and instructional resources aligned to CCSS and Smarter Balanced assessments.
  + OSPI’s [OER Project](http://digitallearning.k12.wa.us/oer/), mandated by ESSHB 2337, has gone live to ESDs. This contains lesson plans, resources, and designed curriculum for schools.
  + OSPI has recently established two positions that will support CCSS.
* How does higher education feel about the Smarter Balanced assessment?
  + Generally, independent colleges and baccalaureates are waiting for more evidence, but are hopeful about the assessment. They want to make sure that the students who come to them are well prepared, and Smarter Balanced may be a good indicator of that.
  + The 2 year system has approved use of the 11th grade Smarter Balanced assessment in placement, the baccalaureates are still in conversation .

**ReadyWA Updates**

Jana Carlisle, Partnership for Learning:

1. Facebook and Twitter- Facebook likes and Twitter followers have increased drastically
2. Statewide Poll- PFL released a statewide poll of 900 voters on Common Core awareness and support
3. Paid Media- Will begin their first digital advertising plan in September
4. Parent Outreach- PFL and WA PTA are finalizing a plan for a parent outreach program (train the trainer concept)
5. Focus groups/survey- Convened community focus groups about CCSS and Smarter Balanced; also sent surveys to WA state legislators
6. Teacher Voices Network- Launched teacher voices blog and videos
7. High Quality Assessment Project (HQAP)- PFL partnered with NQAP to receive technical assistance and partner on communications initiatives
8. Statewide communications summit- Summit set up by PFL and OSPI; attended by 250 people, mostly school district folks

For more details on these items, please visit [our Wiki](http://improvingstudentlearningatscale.wikispaces.com/July+23rd+Meeting).

*Team member discussion:*

* Different messaging is needed among different communities
* Does ReadyWA have outreach to students and student associations? 🡪 not yet, but they will
* An issue with messaging is the word ‘test.’ Test is a filter word which, to many, indicates a barrier in order to get something.
* We should create a more flexible system in K12, where students who aren’t prepared for college stay longer and postpone graduation.
* Currently, educators’ standards and baseline for training are pretty closely aligned to Common Core. It’s been this way for about ten years. Many educators have said their preparation program better prepared them than their internship/field experience.

**Smarter Balanced Communications**

Karen Waters and Craig Kanaya, from Strategies 360, joined our meeting to review the secondary guidance counselor communications piece and to help us develop our postsecondary one-pager. The postsecondary one-pager will be similar to the guidance counselor piece, but will contain different messages.

*Secondary Guidance Counselor Piece:*

* Add a sentence about using the Smarter Balanced assessment as a tool to make adjustments and interventions as necessary to ensure students are on the pathway to success
* Change ‘exam’ to ‘assessment system’ or “assessment”

*Postsecondary Piece:*

Who is the audience for this?

* Admissions office, deans, faculty, everyone in the postsecondary setting

What’s changing on the messaging?

* Communicate about the transition course
* Discuss skills as they relate to the Smarter Balanced assessment- for example, what does a score of 3 mean in terms of what a student can do?
* Reinforce idea that, as a result of Common Core and Smarter Balanced, students will be better prepared for postsecondary and have the academic rigor to succeed
* Explain how standards were developed, and who was involved in the process
* Focus on standards as opposed to the exams
* Add a quote for credibility
* Standards are nationwide, not just Washington state standards

*Infographic:*

* Start thinking about the purpose of the infographic. How do we use different visuals to make a statement?
* SB 6552 discusses a “personalized pathway”- incorporate this idea in the infographic

**Title II Professional Development Grant**

Title II is a professional development grant funded under ESEA Title II Part A Subpart 3. The purpose is to provide partnership grants for professional development projects serving K-12 educators. There are three required partners:

1. Institution of higher education (IHE) and its college of education
2. IHE school of arts and sciences
3. At least one high-need Local Education Agency (LEA)

The program should be a fundamental part of K-12 funding. Washington State gets $40 million for Title II, of that, OSPI gets $39 million and WSAC gets $1 million.

WSAC hopes to use its Title II funding to leverage the WA-TPL (Transforming Professional Learning) and the [Core to College](http://c2cwa.wordpress.com/) work.

For more information on Title II, please refer to the [one-page handout on our Wiki](http://improvingstudentlearningatscale.wikispaces.com/July+23rd+Meeting) or [OSPI’s Title II page](https://www.k12.wa.us/titleiia/).

**Wrap-up**

Our next cross-state meeting will be September 22-23 (Monday-Tuesday) in Chicago, Illinois. Please RSVP to Anne or Noreen as soon as possible if you are one of the seven organizations/agencies listed in the grant. Representatives include:

1. WSAC
2. OSPI
3. SBCTC
4. SBE
5. COP
6. Legislature
7. Governor’s Office

**Our next team meeting will be October 22, 1pm-4pm in Olympia, Washington.**

*For questions and/or comments, please contact:*

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